

F-1-205
David Specht House
Doubs vicinity
Private

Ca. 1837

The David Specht House is a two-story brick dwelling with Greek Revival interior details built about 1837 as the center of a farmstead. Most of the farm buildings are no longer extant, except for a non-contributing dairy barn, milk house, and silo base near the house. The house has a three-bay main elevation on the north with a partially rebuilt one-story porch. The perpendicular rear wing has been extensively remodeled in the mid-20th century, with an enclosed and enlarged two-story porch on the east side and a surrounding brick terrace. The interior has also been much changed, with the removal of at least one wall in the main section and the possible relocation of the staircase. Two Greek Revival mantelpieces remain in the house, with vernacular versions of fluted pilasters and frieze panels. Davis Specht (born 1796) is the probable builder of the house and was killed by a falling brick during a storm, although it is unknown whether the death occurred at this house or another family property. During the Civil War, the property was the scene of an incident between Union troops and Jacob Specht, David's brother, in which Specht's fences were torn down, rebuilt by Specht, and taken down again as the Union party first pursued and then were pursued by Confederate cavalry, all within the space of an hour.

F-1-205
David Specht House
Doubs
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1970

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use
Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic David Specht House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5301 Doubs Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Doubs

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 6th

state Maryland

county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Claude M. & Olive Y. Mathers

street & number 5301 Doubs Road

telephone no.:

city, town Adamstown

state and zip code MD 21710

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

liber 945

street & number 100 W. Patrick St.

folio 14

city, town Frederick

state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. F-1-205

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The David Specht House is a two-story brick dwelling built about 1837 with extensive alterations to the interior floor plan and finishes in the period about 1960 to the present. The house is located on the south side of Doubs Road about 1/4 mile east of the former B&O Railroad tracks near Doubs, Frederick County, Maryland. The house was formerly the center of a working farm, but all of the major outbuildings except the non-contributing concrete block dairy barn and milk house and a concrete silo base have been removed. The house is currently a private residence and is located on a hill screened from Doubs Road by trees. The principal elevation faces north and a much-altered two-story wing extends to the south of the main section. The date of the building was estimated by architectural evidence, land records, and historical maps.

The dwelling has 6:1 American bond brick walls currently painted gray. The three-bay north elevation has an exposed stone foundation and a one-story porch with turned columns and a modern balustrade and steps. The porch roof has been extensively repaired in the past year, but retains spindle brackets and some pendants along the lower cross beams. The center entrance has a four-panel door and a three-light transom. The windows are 6/6 with plain wood lintels. The brick cornice is corbeled and the roof is covered with standing seam metal. Interior end chimneys are at the east and west gable ends. The west elevation has no opening other than the 2/2 attic windows. The east elevation has two bays with 6/6 windows and the 2/2 attic windows. The south side of the main section is almost entirely dominated by the two-story wing. The west side of the wing has three irregular bays with two entrances. One first story window opening has been reduced in size. A modern carriage lamp is located next to the southernmost door. A modern brick terrace surrounds the entire wing. The east side of the wing has a modern wood deck and an extensively enlarged and enclosed one-story porch, work also primarily from the 1960's-1980's period. The interior floor plan has been altered by the possible removal of a wall which separated a central hall from the two flanking rooms. The current interior wall finish is wallpaper, concealing any evidence in the older wall plaster which might hint at the original configuration. The remaining wall has an enlarged doorway into the east parlor. Both rooms in the main section have molded wood mantelpieces in the Greek Revival style with pilasters and a frieze panel adorned with closely grouped half-round molding, apparently a vernacular interpretation of the flutes of a classical column. The window surrounds are also molded in the Greek Revival style, with a center raised molding flanked by inverted channels. The stairs are currently located behind the two front rooms and it is unclear whether they were relocated from the possible center hall. The rear wing is much altered, as suggested by the exterior, containing the kitchen and a sun room. The second story rooms are also extensively remodeled.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-1-205

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1837

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The David Specht House is minimally significant in architecture as an example of a vernacular brick dwelling with Greek Revival details of the period about 1837-1840. This is approximately the peak of the Greek Revival style in Frederick County, although decorative features such as window and door frames, mantelpieces, and stair detailing in the Greek Revival style continued to be used into the 1850's. The Specht House, although considerably altered on the interior and on much of the exterior, retains two representative Greek Revival mantelpieces, with simple lines and a vernacular craftsman's version of flutes on the pilasters and frieze panel. The house was probably built about 1837 by David Specht, who bought 251 acres of Carrollton Manor land from Richard Bayard in that year. In Grove's — History of Carrollton Manor (1928), the Spechts are said to have come to Frederick County during the 1770's and that David was born in 1796. Married three times, but having no children, David Specht was killed by a brick falling from a chimney after a storm. It is not clear whether the death happened at this house or at another nearby property shown on the 1858 and 1873 maps. Another David, a nephew of the one born in 1796, is also mentioned, leaving some doubt about which generation is the David Specht indicated as the owner on the 19th century maps. The Grove account goes on to tell of the crossing of the Specht lands by advancing and retreating Union and Confederate raiding parties going from Point of Rocks toward Adamstown along the railroad line. Jacob Specht (born 1804), the brother of David, was a Southern sympathizer and immediately rebuilt the fences knocked down by the Union troops on the way north. A half hour later, the troops came back the same way in retreat and were enraged to find the fences in their way with the Confederate cavalry in pursuit. They forced Specht to take the fence down again, threatening him with death, but the approaching Rebel troops made them ride off without carrying out the act. Since the Specht property at that period was much larger than the current parcel (approximately 50 acres) on which the David Specht House stands, the actual site of this incident is unknown. From 1913 to 1943, the 50-acre property was owned by John P. Hickman, who erected the concrete block dairy barn and other structures remaining near the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No: F-1-205

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Grove, William J., History of Carrollton Manor, Frederick: Marken & Bielfeld, Inc., 1928; 188-189.

Land and Equity Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acresQuadrangle name Buckeystown, MarylandQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

B

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

C

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

D

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

E

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

F

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

G

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

H

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 3 acres centered on the house on Tax Map 103, Parcel 36.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date August 1993street & number 12 E. Church St. telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

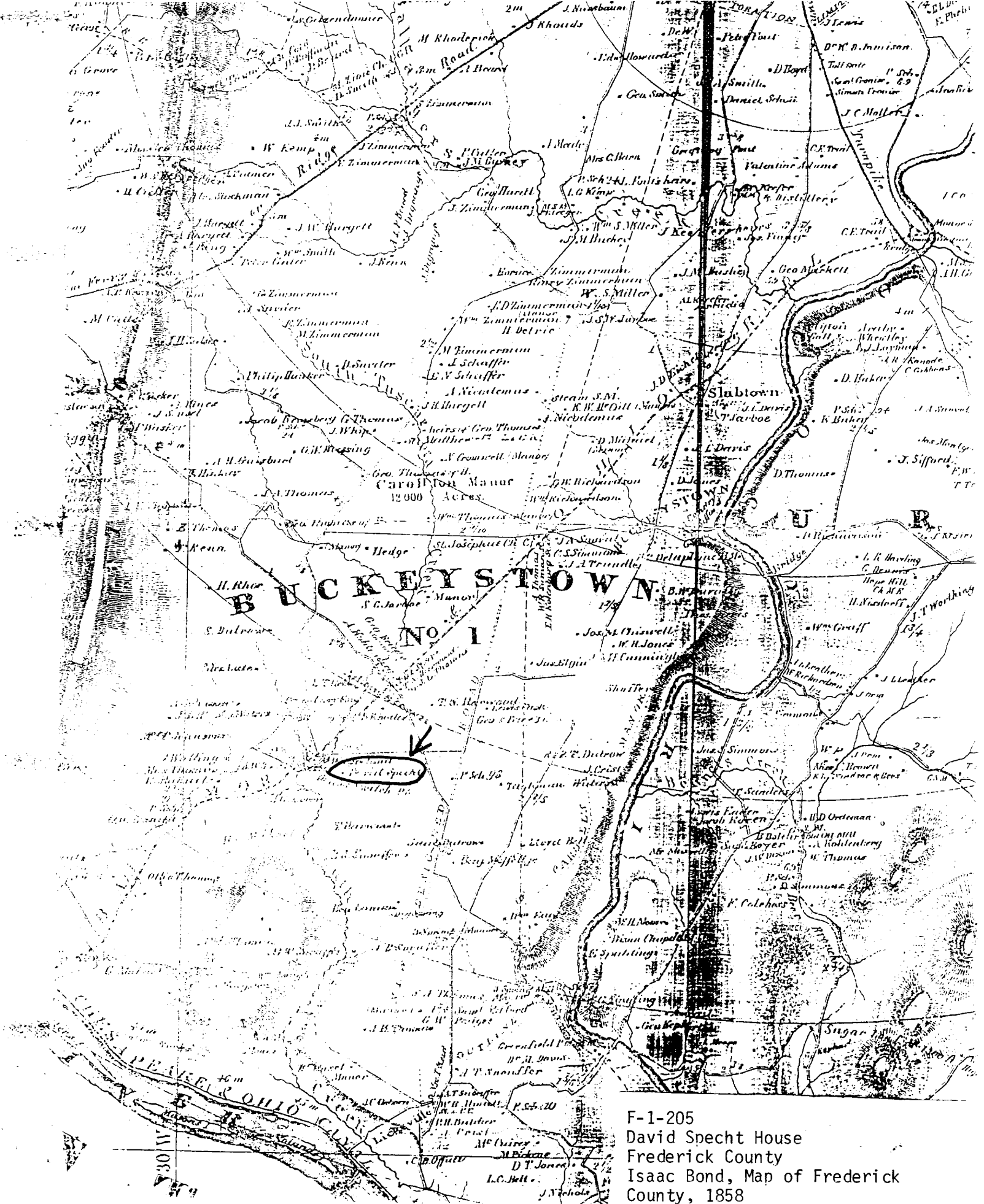
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

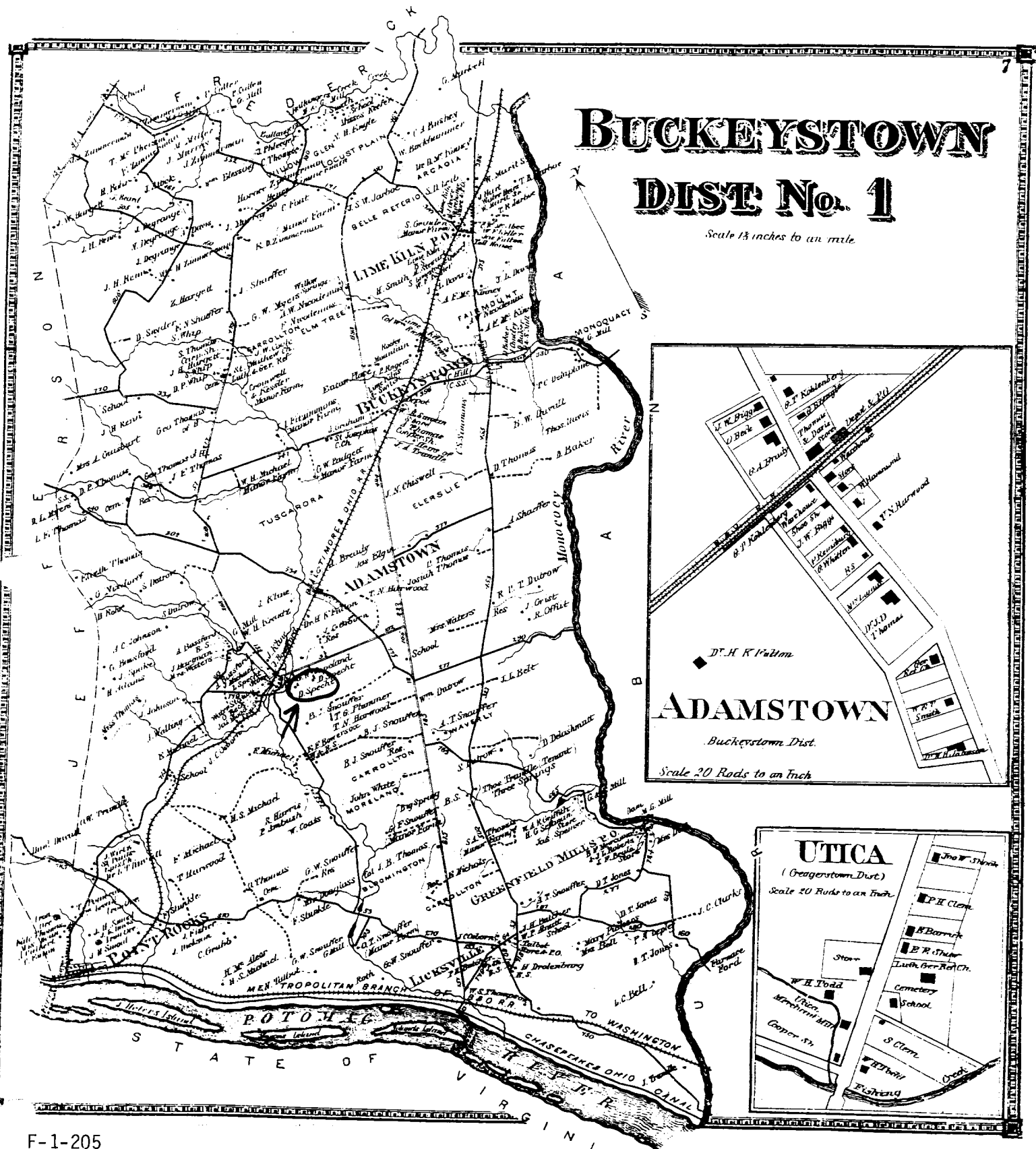
5301 Double Rd.

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
945/14 28 May 74	Claude M. & Olive G. Mathers	Claude M. Mathers	53A., 3R., 30sq. p. 6.08A. in easement to B40		
641/375 15 Aug 60	Claude M. Mathers	Le Roy S. Baker + Hannah C. Baker			
641/373 15 Aug 60	Le Roy S. Baker et ux	Bruce Lamb surviving exr. of LW & T of John W. Owens, dec.	53A. ...	\$5200	
439/405 5 Oct 43	John W. Owens	Samuel S. Hickman et al. exr. of LW	53A. ... 4T of John P. Hickman	\$3975	
310/358 20 Oct 14	John P. Hickman	Charles D. Hickman et ux of Wash. D.C.	53 A. ... Equity 8851. J. Bowers Myers vs Jacob Specht et al		Equity 8851 Equity Record HMB 4/312
304/480 19 May 13	Charles D. Hickman	Jesse F. R. Hedges & John F. Smith trustees in Equity 8851	53A. ...	\$5,250	HS 5 213 1 Jul 1837
HS 5/213 1 Jul 1837	David Specht or (Spacht.)	Richard H. Bayard et ux	part of Lot No. 10, one of the Grand Divisions of Carleton Manor 251 A., 3R., 31 p.	\$13,847	

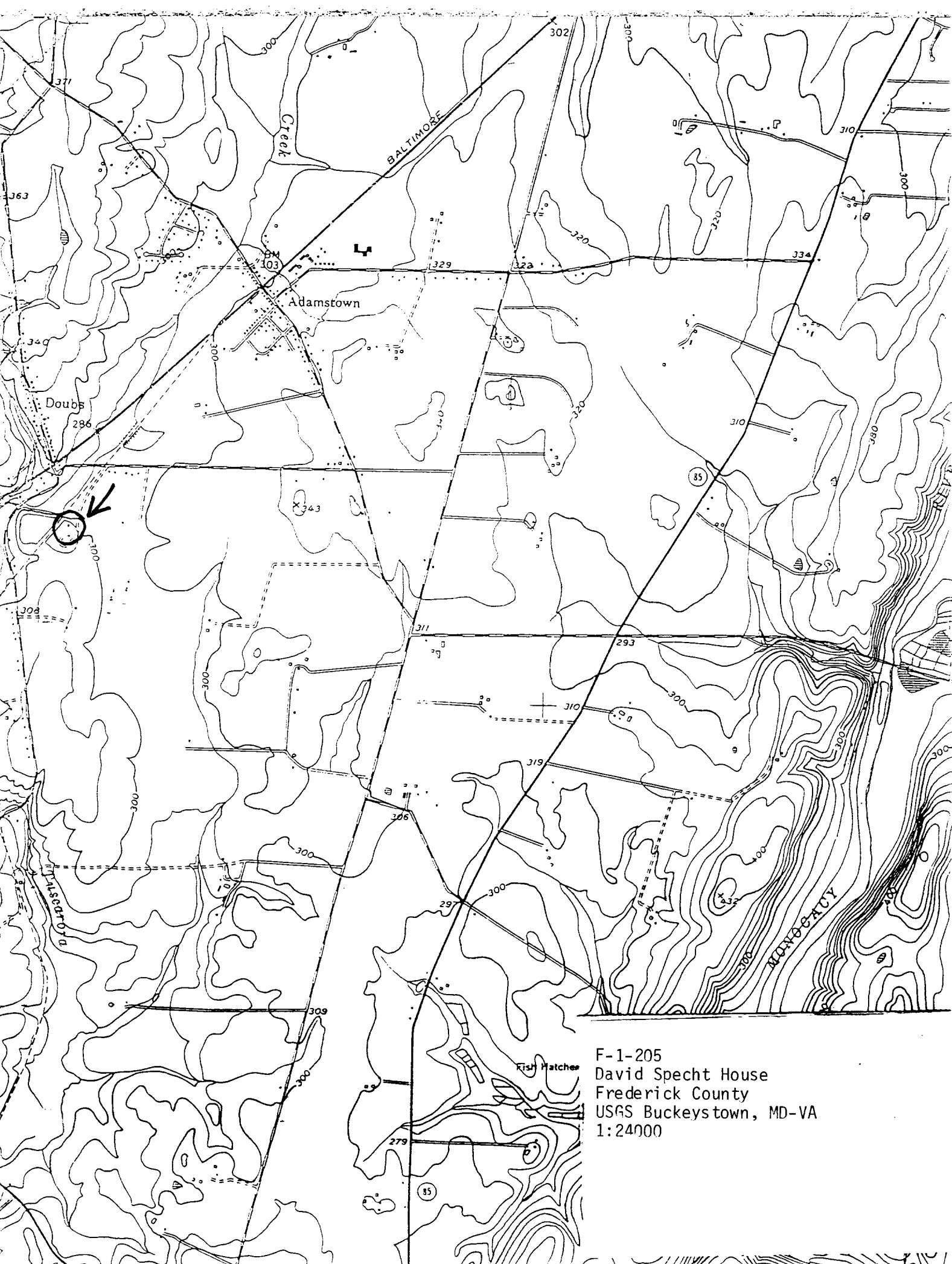
F-1-205



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David Specht House
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858



F-1-205
David Specht House
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873





F-1-205

David Specht House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

July 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North elevation

1/3



F. 1-205

David Specht House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

July 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPo. Brownsville Md.

Southwest corner view

2/3



F-1-205

David Specht House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

July 1993

Neg. loc: Md SHP, Crownsville, Md

Parlor mantel piece

3/3